



On-scene-Rescue class at Misko Beach, Polinpei.

Micronesia Islands of hope

By Lt. Angus MacFeeley

By turning over some of its operations in the western Pacific to the local governments, the Coast Guard is helping thirty-spread island nations attain self-sufficiency.

The Coast Guard's first order of business was to pass control and care of nearby aids to navigation to the nations themselves, a process of training and supplying that ended in May.

As a next step, key officials from the Federated States of Micronesia gathered in Guam in Febru-

ary 1995 for a conference on search and rescue and law enforcement.

The Coast Guard and the Micronesian representatives developed national search and rescue plans and a SAR training program.

After several months of planning, the Micronesian Training Program, funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, brought an intensive and customized two-week training program to Micronesia's capital on the island of Pohnpei.

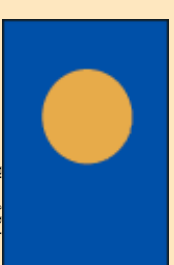


Flag of Micronesia

5 countries, 40 students, 12 instructors

The session involved 12 instructors and 40 students from five countries, with search and rescue training in program management, mission coordination, rescue aviation and on-scene rescue techniques.

Among the instructors were the US Pacific commander's Coast Guard liaison, Capt. James Perry, and other Coast Guard members from the National Search and Rescue School in Yorktown, Va., and throughout the Pacific. Representatives from the US Army and the Aquatics Division of the County of Hawaii also taught.



Flag of Palau

Western Pacific World of water

Micronesia's hundreds of tiny islands would make up a total land mass smaller than Rhode Island, yet they are strewn across an area of ocean larger than the continental United States. Until recently, it, along with the Republic of Palau and the Marshall Islands, was administered as part of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands by the United States. The territory was created in the early 1950's by a United Nations mandate. Micronesia began in 1987 to knit together its isolated and diverse cultures and strive for political self-determination. The last of the former trust territories, Palau, celebrated its first anniversary of independence on Oct. 1.

reef rescues

Operational training focused on two general scenarios: a small boat adrift at sea or a boat with injured people stranded on an outlying barrier reef. Most of the students for this portion of the training were police officers, and in the end they were qualified as lifeguard instructors by the standards of the American Red Cross.

Reef rescues are common in Micronesia, but relatively uncommon elsewhere. The inhabited islands of the nation are surrounded by dangerous barrier reefs. The U.S. Army fire chief on Kwajalein Atoll, Ragnar Optimiano, taught rescuers how to read waves as they build and break on reefs, and the best approaches to reach the injured. In a simulation on the last day of training, the students were asked to save a victim with a broken back from Kapeara Island, located on the southwest corner of Pohnpei's barrier reef. Mark Marshall, the deputy director of the County of Hawaii's Aquatics Division, led the on-scene rescue training team with the help of ASWIC Dennis Kaczmarek from Air Station Barber's Point.



Flag of the Marshall Islands



On-Scene-Rescue Class practices first aid

"Our goal is to make them as self sufficient as possible in terms of maritime safety, law enforcement, and search & rescue."
- U.S. Coast Guard International Strategic Plan for the former Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands

Search planning

A group of pilots from airlines in the Pacific received training in flight planning and search patterns from Lt. George "Skip" Deacon, also from Barbours Point. The pilots had been called upon many times to help in search and rescue cases, but had never received the intensive and specialized training.

Sixteen Micronesian and five Australian students received mission coordinator training. They learned how to make search plans manually, as well as general concepts of search and rescue. They got the same training on Pohnpei as they would have received at the National Search and Rescue School.

The Australian officers used their practical experience to help the other students with assignments and group exercises. In the end, students were able to plan primary and secondary searches around Pohnpei, and had begun to develop mission coordination skills for their home islands.

Micronesia

Federated States of Micronesia – Formerly part of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
States – Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap
607 islands comprising 300 square miles of land, spread over a million square miles of ocean. Total Population – 122,000
Capital – Kolonia, population 6,169
Religion – Christian, 97%
Languages – Carolinian, English, Kapingamarangi, Kusaie, Mokel, Mortlock, Nannuitto, Ngatik, Nukunon, Paelang, Pingelap, Pohnpei, Pulowan, Sarawal, Sonorot, Truk, Uthiti, Woleaian, Yapese.

This training is a stepping stone to better cooperation for future search and rescue cases. The people of the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia should gain comfort from knowing that if they are in distress, the skills to help are close at hand.



Philip Madetevon, Captain of the Pohni Boat, Micronesia

people making what ought to be, what is



These articles were compiled by MCOPO Billy Joe Whitley from units as examples of leadership in the district. If you have notable stories you'd like to see published, please send them via e-mail to dcaea/DJ4d.

CCCGD14

Better sponsors = better transfers

CWO3 Peter Lucyga has developed a sponsor training program. As the district relocation manager, he recognized all the information packets in the world will not help inbound personnel relocate unless they have an active and interested sponsor. Many sponsors lack basic knowledge of what constitutes sponsorship. Lucyga is trying to improve that through training and standardized sponsor guidelines. This will help people fulfill their responsibilities to their fellow service members, getting them off on the right foot. Nobody told him to do it. He simply saw a problem and took action to fix it. That's leadership.

USCGC Sassofras

Top notch yeoman eases transfers

YN2 Don Ralston is a man who's "made what ought to be, what is" aboard Sassofras. As independent duty yeoman, he's assisted dozens of members, late at night and on weekends to ensure smooth TAD travel and PCS transfers. Even when deployed, Ralston has coordinated the travel arrangements, travel claim reimbursements, and sponsoring details necessary for overseas moves. In addition, he has assisted senior personnel with award recommendations, page seven, and other correspondence to ensure the crew is properly recognized for their achievements. On top of his normal duties, Ralston quickly qualified in damage control watchstations, senior petty of the watch duties, and underway quartermaster of the watch. Ralston is a superior petty officer, excellent yeoman, and fine shipmate for the crew of Sassofras.

USCGC Sassofras

Clean sweep during recent training

The officers and crew of Cutter Sassofras "manned their broom" in a different sense recently, for a clean sweep of tailored ship's training availability operations. This is the cutter's seventh sweep in ten years. The highest scores were obtained in the areas of communications and engineering with a 98.8 and a 97.7, respectively. Navigation/Seamanship and Damage Control earned a 96 and 95.8, respectively. Perhaps more important than the clean sweep and earning the Coast Guard "E" Ribbon award is the resulting greater proficiency with which cutter and crew is now able to do its job.



RN2 Scott Espenson

Tradition on deck ... The names and birthdates of Aaron G. Larremore and Kaitani R. Daves were engraved in CCGC Washington's ship's bell as part of a christening ceremony aboard Washington March 2, at Sand Island in Honolulu. MRC William and Sierra Larremore and EN1 Roque and Kearney Daves requested. Tom O'Donnell of the Hawaiian Biblical Research Fellowship to preside over the ceremony.

Reserves come through for MSO

By Lt. Kevin Pratt

Reservists assigned to Marine Safety Office Honolulu have played a key role in the Fishing Vessel Safety Program and in Marine Investigations. Reservists working in the Fishing Vessel Safety Program on the Big Island and Oahu have issued 49 safety decals, conducted 126 fishing vessel safety exams, and educated 613 customers since last May. Reserve Examiners' local geographic knowledge and acceptance by the close-knit, culturally diverse Hawaiian fishing community have helped make this program extremely successful. Reservists have also made significant contributions in Marine Investigations. Three reservists have appeared before an administrative law judge to present Coast Guard cases in suspension and revocation

proceedings against licensed and documented mariners. One reservist has completed the Marine Investigation Officer course and has served as lead investigator at a suspension and revocation proceeding. MSO Honolulu has significantly increased the role of reservists since integrating them into their command last March. As a result of the integration, MSO Honolulu was able to plan and execute an ambitious training program designed to produce a force of fully trained reservists capable of responding to a variety of missions on all of the major Hawaiian Islands. The outstanding partnership of active duty and reserve resources created at MSO Honolulu demonstrates "Team Coast Guard" works.

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Next Port of Call

***Coast Guard Inspectors in the Far East?**
Lt. Nick Cann inspects the inside of a boiler on the
U.S. Naval Service Ship American Odyssey in Singapore.
(photo by PA2 Scott Epperson)*

